

in creative expression and knowledge." I believe when we look back on our lives, certain people come to mind who have inspired us and given us the joy of which Einstein speaks. There are teachers who have touched our lives in remarkable ways and led us to a career path or opened us to the thrill of discovery and research.

The Chinese proverb reads, "Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand." It is the rare teacher who is never bored or boring and takes his or her students on a creative adventure each day.

We ask much of our teachers today. They must be babysitters and counselors, surrogate parents, dieticians, and police. We ask them to teach our children what they need to know to do well on SATs and other tests; and, in between, we ask that they inspire our children to learn, to create, and to invent.

Teachers have one of the hardest jobs around. So today, on Teacher Appreciation Day during Teacher Appreciation Week, I salute and appreciate our teachers.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of V-E Day, Victory in Europe Day, one of the most truly seminal days in history.

On May 8, 1945, the World War II allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, marking the end of Hitler's Third Reich and the years of tyranny and war it brought to the continent. The members of the Greatest Generation who made this victory possible are 65 years removed from this V-E Day, yet their commitment to remembering the sacrifices that made it possible are as strong as ever.

In fact, one of my constituents, Freemont Gruss, will be in the Czech Republic this Saturday to mark the anniversary with members of his former division, which was credited with firing the last shot against the Germans before V-E Day.

Today I honor each and every one of the soldiers who made V-E Day possible. I know that in another 65 years their accomplishment will still be one of the most important that our world has ever seen.

THANKING THOSE INVOLVED IN STOPPING THE TIMES SQUARE BOMBER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I rise today to thank all of the brave individ-

uals who were able to quickly capture the Times Square alleged bomber who was attempting to kill many in the United States—from the vendor who noticed and said that his motto is, for the American people, "If you see, tell someone"; to the law enforcement officers, the mounties on horses; to the SWAT team and the fire department that was part of making sure it did not go off; and certainly to the people of New York.

I also want to thank the Obama administration, the Attorney General, and Homeland Security, and, in particular, before we start asking questions about the no-fly list and the TSA, let's get the facts. But we do know that we are going to have more homegrown terrorists. America now has to look very seriously, as we have done, at securing America. All of us are now involved.

STIMULATE JOB GROWTH

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Madam Speaker, Florida has a record 12.3 percent unemployment rate, with counties in my district hovering closer to 15 percent. This is unacceptable. My neighbors have waited as the failed stimulus bill sent us further into debt and didn't produce the promised jobs. They waited while the House passed job-killing bills like cap-and-trade and the new health care mandated by the government. And they have waited long enough.

Congress must act now to stimulate job growth in the private sector. I recently cosponsored the Economic Freedom Act, a bill that would help businesses grow and create jobs. It would permanently eliminate the capital gains tax and eliminate the death tax. It would cut the payroll tax in half for 2010 for employers and employees and reduce the corporate income tax rate to 12.5 percent. It would repeal spending in the stimulus bill and terminate the TARP program.

The time to act is now. We can do better for the people of Florida and for all Americans. They have waited long enough.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1930

RECOGNIZING MAJOR SPEROS KOUMPARAKIS' SERVICE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS LIAISON OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has served his country and this institution with distinction as an officer of the United States Marine Corps. I will be joined in this tribute by my friend and colleague from the House Democracy Partnership, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Major Speros Koumparakis joined the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs in October 2006. He was hired immediately for a yearlong fellowship by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN). After completing his fellowship, Major Koumparakis joined the House Liaison Office as a legislative liaison officer, and was promoted subsequently to deputy director of this office.

Like many of my colleagues, I have had the distinct honor and pleasure of getting to know Major Koumparakis over the past 2½ years as he served as the interface between the Marine Corps and the U.S. House of Representatives on matters large and small. Throughout this time, I have been deeply and consistently impressed by his dedication, his professionalism, his ethnic of service, and above all his integrity—qualities which exemplify the ideals promoted by the United States Marine Corps.

Major Koumparakis has displayed a unique ability to develop relationships of trust and confidence with many Members and staff of the House, combined with an uncanny ability to deliver results. Anybody who has ever interacted with him on a policy matter of importance to the Marine Corps, an issue affecting a constituent service-member, or a logistical challenge arising in the course of an overseas delegation can't help but be struck by his equanimity in the face of crisis and his infectious confidence that everything will be resolved as expeditiously as possible. If anybody can pull it off, one is led to conclude, certainly it must be Major Speros Koumparakis.

I have witnessed these traits personally in my capacity as chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, a bipartisan commission that works to strengthen legislative institutions in 15 developing democracies around the world. Along with my distinguished colleague and friend, DAVID DREIER, the commission's founding chairman and now its ranking member, I have led or traveled on numerous congressional delegations which Major Koumparakis has planned, coordinated and escorted. By our count, House-wide he has escorted no less than a dozen HDP congressional and staff delegations over the last 2 years, and he has contributed in various ways to our programming right up until the very end of his tour. House-wide, Major Koumparakis has organized more than 50 congressional and staff delegations during his tour in the House Liaison Office, including trips for high-ranking Members such as the House minority leader and the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee. But we like to think that